



Related Medlearn Matters Article #: MM4149

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## *Lung Volume Reduction Surgery*

### Key Words

MM4149, CR4149, lung, volume, reduction, surgery

### Provider Types Affected

All Medicare providers who submit claims to Medicare carriers or fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for Lung Volume Reduction Surgery (LVRS)

### Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is November 17, 2005.
- The implementation date is March 2, 2006.
- Beginning November 17, 2005, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will allow facilities certified under the Disease Specific Care Certification Program for LVRS by the Joint Commission of Health Care Organizations (Joint Commission) to be Medicare-approved LVRS facilities.
- Hospitals that are Medicare-approved for lung or heart-lung transplant will continue to be approved for LVRS.
- National Emphysema Treatment Trial (NETT) facilities are no longer automatically approved for LVRS.
  - The NETT has ended, and CR4149 removes outdated language from the *Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual* that refers to coverage for LVRS under the protocol of that trial.
  - These hospitals will have 18 months to become approved under one of the other existing mechanisms.
- CR4149 updates the requirements for hospitals to become approved as Medicare LVRS facilities. CMS will maintain an updated listing of approved LVRS facilities at [http://new.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareApprovedFacilitie/04\\_lvrs.asp#TopOfPage](http://new.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareApprovedFacilitie/04_lvrs.asp#TopOfPage) on the CMS web site.

- Medicare will consider LVRS reasonable and necessary only when the following requirements are met:
  - Effective for services performed on or after November 17, 2005, LVRS is performed at a facility that is:
    - Certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (Joint Commission) under the LVRS Disease Specific Care Certification Program (program standards and requirements as printed in the Joint Commission's October 25, 2004, Disease Specific Care Certification Program packet); or
    - Performed at facilities that are Medicare-approved for lung or heart-lung transplantation.
- CMS further determines that LVRS performed between January 1, 2004, and May 17, 2007, may be performed at facilities that:
  - Were approved by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute to participate in the National Emphysema Treatment Trial; and
  - Are Medicare-approved for lung or heart-lung transplantation.

### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles/downloads/MM4149.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R768CP.pdf>